

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 5. This sheet, which includes Figures 4-5, replaces the original sheet including Figures 4-5.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated January 18, 2007, Applicant submits this Amendment. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11 and 12 are currently amended. Claims 9 and 10 are cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-8 and 11-12 are pending. No new matter has been added by way of the present Amendment. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to Figure 5 because it was a block diagram without “readily identifiable” descriptors of each block. While Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s objections, Applicant submits herewith a replacement sheet of drawings (Figures 4-5) with a revised Figure 5 having labeled representations for each element in Figure 5. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner’s objections to Figure 5 be withdrawn.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner requested additional copies of the following foreign patent documents because the prior submissions were not legible: EP 0291042 A2, EP 0461622 A2, GB 2251110 A, DE 29814558 U1, and EP 1175082 A2. Applicant submits herewith legible copies of these documents and requests that they be considered by the Examiner in the present application.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to claims 6 and 7 as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention and objected to claim 2 for the informality of having a redundant phrase “the said.” Although Applicant respectfully traverses each of the Examiner’s objections, Applicant has amended claims 2, 6 and 7 to overcome the Examiner’s objections. Claim 6 and 7 now each provide antecedent basis for “a casing” and claim 2 has been amended to eliminate the objected redundancy. Applicant has also followed the

Examiner's suggestion and deleted the non-limiting drawing numeral "29" from claim 2. Applicant therefore requests withdrawal of the objections to claim 2, 6 and 7.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 6, and 7 as allegedly being anticipated by Jones (US2003/0009420). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the reference set forth in the Office Action and with each of the claim rejections. Nevertheless, to expedite the issuance of the claims, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to more clearly distinguish this claim (and the claims that depend on claim 1) over Jones. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date claims similar or identical to the original claims through one or more continuation applications.

The claimed scanner apparatus of amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

the scanner apparatus being characterized in that:

the second image-scanner unit is mounted so as to be rotatable about an axis perpendicular to a path of movement of the paper document in order to be able to adopt a first angular position in which the second image-scanner unit is situated on one side of the path of movement in order to scan one face of the paper document and a second angular position to which the second image-scanner unit is rotated from the first angular position and in which the second image-scanner unit is situated on an opposite side of the path of movement in order to scan the other face of the document, and

the second conveyor mechanism comprises a pair of motor-driven rollers which are adapted to be rotated selectively and alternatively in two opposite directions of rotation in order to move the paper document in a first direction or in a second direction opposite the first direction.

In contrast to amended claim 1, neither Jones nor any of the other references cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest the claimed second image scanner and second conveyer mechanism. In particular, none of the references cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest an image-scanner unit that is rotatable about an axis perpendicular to a path of movement of a document such that the image-scanner unit is able to be rotated and situated on opposite sides of the document—a full 180-degree rotation of the image-scanner unit around the document in order to scan both sides.

Instead, Jones depicts in Figure 5 a scan head 540 that does not rotate around the path of movement of a document to an opposite side of a document. Jones uses a mirror 520 combination with the scan head 540 in order to image a document 505 with “reflection techniques.” Jones, Para. 49; Fig. 5.

Accordingly, neither Jones nor any of the other cited references teach or suggest all the limitations of amended claim 1, including, *inter alia*, a scanner apparatus where “the second image-scanner unit is mounted so as to be rotatable about an axis perpendicular to a path of movement of the paper document in order to be able to adopt a first angular position in which the second image-scanner unit is situated on one side of the path of movement in order to scan one face of the paper document and a second angular position to which the second image-scanner unit is rotated from the first angular position and in which the second image-scanner unit is situated on an opposite side of the path of movement in order to scan the other face of the document.”

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentability distinguished over Jones, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of independent claim 1. Applicant also submits that dependant claims 3, 6, and 7 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim, as well as for novel and non-obvious combination of elements recited therein.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claim 2 as allegedly being unpatentable over Jones in combination with Murakami (US 5912747), claims 4 and 5 as allegedly being unpatentable over Jones in combination with Reid-Green (US 4971309), and claims 8-12 as allegedly being

unpatentable over Jones in combination with Nose et al. (US 2002/0071702). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of each of the references set forth in the Office Action and with each of the claim rejections. Nevertheless, to expedite the issuance of the claims, Applicant has deleted claims 9 and 10, amended claims 11 and 12 to depend on independent claim 1, and amended claim 1 to more clearly distinguish this claim (and the claims that depend on claim 1) over the cited references. Thus, Applicant requests allowance of dependant claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 11 and 12 are allowable as depending from allowable base claim 1, as well as for novel and non-obvious combination of elements recited therein.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Any remarks in support of patentability of one claim should not be imputed to any other claim, even if similar terminology is used. Any remarks referring to only a portion of a claim should not be understood to base patentability on that portion; rather, patentability must rest on each claim taken as a whole. Applicant respectfully traverses each of the Examiner's rejections and each of the Examiner's assertions regarding what the cited references show or teach, even if not expressly discussed herein. Although changes to the claims have been made, no acquiescence or estoppel is or should be implied thereby; such amendments are made only to expedite prosecution of the present application and are without prejudice to the presentation or assertion, in the future, of claims relating to the same or similar subject matter. If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a relevant teaching in any of the references, the Examiner is requested to point out specifically where such teaching may be found.

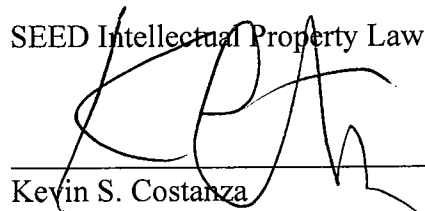
In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application and timely allow all pending claims. Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss the above and any other distinctions between the claims and the applied references, if desired. If the Examiner notes any informalities in the claims, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to expediently correct such informalities. The Director is authorized to charge any additional

Application No. 10/774,334
Reply to Office Action dated January 18, 2007

fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account
No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Costanza', is written over a horizontal line.

Kevin S. Costanza
Registration No. 37,801

Enclosure:

1 Sheet of Replacement Drawings (Figures 4-5)

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5400
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

957314_1.DOC